CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) Isolated pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiates to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages ~~and which do not give rise to functional gametes,~~ , wherein said pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells are not derived from embryonic tissue, are not totipotent, do not spontaneously differentiate, remaining quiescent in serum-free medium and in the absence of an induction agent, and wherein the stem cells do not form tumors in an animal, genetically engineered to express a gene or protein of interest.

15. (currently amended) A method of producing genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells comprising the steps of:

(a) transfecting pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from

all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages ~~and which do not give rise to functional gametes,~~ , wherein said pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells are not derived from embryonic tissue, are not totipotent, do not spontaneously differentiate, remaining quiescent in serum-free medium and in the absence of an induction agent, and wherein the stem cells do not form tumors in an animal, with a DNA construct comprising at least one of a marker gene or a gene of interest;

(b) selecting for expression of the marker gene or gene of interest in the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells;

(c) culturing the stem cells selected in (b).

16. (Previously presented) Genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells produced by the method of claim 15.

17. (Previously presented) The stem cells of claim 16 which are human cells.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (canceled)

33. (New) Isolated pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein said stem cells express stage specific embryonic antigen SSEA4, and CD10 cell surface markers, genetically engineered to express a gene or protein of interest.

34. (New) A method of producing genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells comprising the steps of:

(a) transfecting pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein said stem cells express stage specific embryonic antigen SSEA4, and CD10 cell surface markers, with a DNA construct comprising at least one of a marker gene or a gene of interest;

(b) selecting for expression of the marker gene or gene of interest in the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells;

(c) culturing the stem cells selected in (b).

35. (New) Genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells produced by the method of claim 34.

36. (New) The stem cells of claim 33 or 35 which are human cells.